

(c) *Abandoned account.* If no beneficiaries of the account are located, the account will be considered abandoned and the funds will revert to the TSP. If there are multiple beneficiaries and one or more of them refuses to cooperate in the Board's search for the missing beneficiary, the missing beneficiary's share will be considered abandoned. In such circumstances, the account can be reclaimed if the missing beneficiary is found at a later date. However, earnings will not be credited from the date the fund is abandoned. The beneficiary will be required to submit Form TSP-17 and may be required to submit proof of his or her identity and relationship to the participant.

§ 1651.17 Disclaimer of benefits.

(a) *Disclaimer criteria.* The beneficiary of a TSP account may disclaim his or her right to receive the account. In order to be effective, the following criteria must be met:

(1) The disclaimer must be in writing. The writing must state specifically that the beneficiary is disclaiming his or her right to receive a death benefit payment from the TSP account of the participant.

(2) The disclaimer must be irrevocable.

(3) The disclaimer must be received by the TSP record keeper before payment is made.

(4) The disclaimant cannot direct to whom the disclaimant's portion of the participant's account should be paid.

(5) The disclaimant must disclaim the entire benefit, not a portion.

(b) *Treatment of disclaimed share.* The disclaimant will be treated as having predeceased the participant and his or her share will be paid in accordance with § 1651.10.

§ 1651.18 Payment to one bars payment to another.

Payment made to a beneficiary(ies) in accordance with this part, based upon information received before payment, bars any claim by any other person.

PART 1653—DOMESTIC RELATIONS ORDERS AFFECTING THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN ACCOUNTS

Subpart A—Retirement Benefits Court Orders

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 8435, 8436(b), 8437(e)(3), 8467, 8474(b)(5) and 8474(c)(1).

SOURCE: 60 FR 13609, Mar. 13, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Retirement Benefits Court Orders

§ 1653.1 Purpose.

This subpart contains regulations prescribing the Board's procedures for processing retirement benefits court orders.

§ 1653.2 Qualifying retirement benefits court orders.

(a) The TSP will only honor the terms of a retirement benefits court order that is qualifying under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) A retirement benefits court order must meet each of the following requirements to be considered qualifying:

(1) The court order must be a court decree of divorce, of annulment, or of legal separation, or any court order or court-approved property settlement